

# Preserve Hiking Trails



## Backcountry Hiking Trails

*The preserve's backcountry hiking trails are open daily between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. from the last Saturday in April through the last Sunday in October. From November through April, trails are open on weekends (weather permitting). Permits are required for the backcountry trails.*

**Scenic Overlook Trail** – A 6.4-mile round-trip hike along the bus tour route to the scenic overlook area. Experience the beauty of native rolling prairie, as you take in the wide-open vistas of 1,490 feet above sea level.

**3 Pasture Loop Trail** – A 3.8-mile hike through upland prairie. This trail winds along existing ranch roads and a mowed path. From May through July, cattle graze here as they have for the past century.

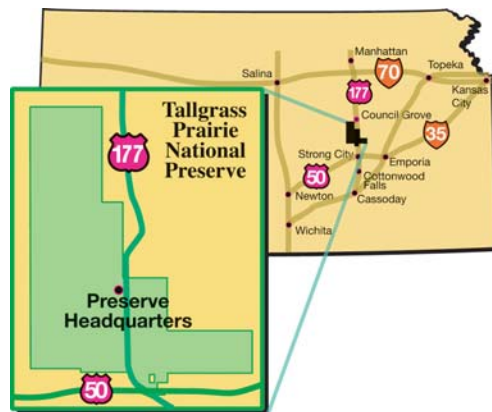
**Red House Trail** – A 6-mile hike through upland prairie and natural drainage areas. This trail passes through several historic ranching features, while giving an intimate view of wetland prairie flowers and vegetation through a scenic grove of cottonwood trees.

## Frontcountry Nature Trails

*The preserve's frontcountry nature trails are open year-round during daylight hours only. For visitor safety and resource preservation, we ask that visitors stay on the designated trails.*

**The Southwind Nature Trail** – A 1 3/4-mile hiking trail through the tallgrass prairie, passing by the Lower Fox Creek School. Scenic overlook areas.

**The Bottomland Trail** – A 1/2 or 3/4-mile loop through bottomland prairie along Fox Creek. Wayside exhibits and information kiosks tell the story of the prairie restoration and cultural history. The trail is wheelchair accessible and offers a comfort station.



**Location:** The preserve headquarters is located:

- 2 miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills Scenic Byway)
- 18 miles west of Emporia
- 16 miles south of Council Grove
- 85 miles northeast of Wichita

**Hours:** The historic ranch headquarters is open daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day) from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Brochures and a 10-minute site orientation video are available in the barn (May – October) and on the back porch of the house (November – April).

A self-guided tour of the historic ranch headquarters is available daily between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A brochure and wayside exhibits tell the story of Stephen F. Jones, who owned the ranch from 1878 to 1888.

The bookstore/gift shop in the ranch house is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visitors may purchase books for children and adults, prints, postcards, educational and hand-crafted gift items, natural objects, and items related to local culture.

While in Chase County, make time to visit the towns of Strong City and Cottonwood Falls. Steeped in prairie history, these scenic communities will take you back in time. They offer dining, shopping, and much more.

**Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve**  
Rt. 1 Box 14 Hwy 177, Strong City, KS 66869  
Telephone: 620-273-8494 Fax: 620-273-8950  
Email: [tapr\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:tapr_interpretation@nps.gov)  
Website: [www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr)



**National Park Service mailing address:**  
Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve  
P.O. Box 585, Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845

**Kansas Park Trust** Telephone: 620-273-8139  
**The Nature Conservancy** [www.nature.org/kansas](http://www.nature.org/kansas)

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve  
Strong City, Kansas



## 2006 Schedule of Events

Natural  
History  
Programs



Special  
Events



Living History  
Activities



## 2006 Weekend Activities

### Natural History Programs

- **Fox Creek Discovery Hike** - At 10 a.m. (Sat and Sun) on the 2nd and 4th weekends of each month from June through October, enjoy a one-hour ranger-led hike along the stream bank of Fox Creek. Other natural history programs throughout the day.



### Cultural History Programs

- **Ranching Weekends** - On holidays and the 1st and 3rd weekends of each month from Memorial Day through October, experience daily activities on a working ranch as you visit with living history interpreters. Special activities may include historic cooking, music programs, soap making, quilting, crocheting, carpentry skills, roping skills, gardening, saddling skills, and blacksmithing.



- **Old-time Music & Wool Spinning** -

On the 1st Saturday of each month from June through October, listen to live music while watching living history characters spin wool into yarn.



- **Lower Fox Creek School** -

Experience a one-room schoolhouse on weekends from noon until 4 p.m. in May, June, September, and October. Visit with National Park Service volunteers about the role the school played in the early days of education on the prairie. The school is furnished with McGuffey readers, slates, desks, maps, and recitation bench.

### Daily Activities

**Prairie Bus Tours** - This 90-minute prairie tour is available daily from the last Saturday in April through the last Sunday in October.

**Bus tour times** - 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.  
\$5.00 per adult, \$3.00 age 5-18 years, 4 and under free.

**House Tours** - Tours are conducted hourly from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from May through October. *House tour schedules vary November through April.*

## 2006 Special Events at the Preserve

*The preserve offers a variety of activities including guided tours of the 1881 ranch house, living history programs, natural history programs, prairie bus tours, nature trails, and backcountry hiking trails.*

*The preserve is open daily from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day.*

**May 27, 28, & 29 - Memorial Day Weekend** - On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. experience an authentic horse-drawn haying and raking demonstration (weather permitting) in the bottomland field. Visit with living history interpreters as they prepare the noon meal for the harvesters or hear the clang of the blacksmith throughout the day as he demonstrates the art of metallurgy.



On Sunday and Monday visit with living history characters as they go about their daily ranching activities. Historic children's games at 2 p.m. on Sunday and Monday. Refreshment served.

### June 10 - Symphony in the Flint Hills

Enjoy a variety of natural and cultural history education programs, prairie bus tours, house tours, nature trails, the one-room school, and more throughout the day. Concert begins at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the web at [www.symphonyintheflinthills.org](http://www.symphonyintheflinthills.org).

### June 24 & 25 - Historic Farming Equipment

Once a year the top floor of the barn is opened to exhibit the historic farming machinery from the 1920s through 1940s.

### July 1 & 2 - Independence Day at the Ranch

On Saturday, ride in a covered wagon and watch historic cooking demonstrations. On Sunday visit with living history interpreters going about their daily ranching activities as they prepare for the holiday celebration. Historic children's games at 2 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Refreshments served.



### July 1 - Historic Barn Dance and Music

Old-fashioned barn dance and historic live music beginning at 6 p.m. in the 1880s limestone barn. Refreshments served.



### September 2, 3, & 4 - Labor Day Weekend

On Saturday, visit with the blacksmith throughout the day as he demonstrates the art of metallurgy. Historic cooking from 10 a.m. to noon. Listen to period music throughout the day, while watching living history characters spin wool.



Living history activities throughout the day on Sunday and Monday, with historic children's games at 2 p.m. Refreshments served.

### September 30 - Volkswalk at the Preserve

Hike the backcountry trails at the preserve as part of a community Volkswalk outing.

### November 12 - Birthday Celebration

Special program celebrating the 10th anniversary of the preserve at 1 p.m. Birthday cake and punch served at 2 p.m.

### November 25 - Holiday Ranch House

In cooperation with the Chase County Holiday Homes Tour the historic ranch headquarters are decorated with natural objects and greenery representing an 1880s historic setting. Listen to historic live music, while historically dressed interpreters present holiday homes tours of the house. Refreshments served on Saturday.

